

COUNTRY: East Germany		SECURITY INFORMATION		REPORT	25X1
TOPIC: Military Information from Gera					
EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED				
DATE OF CONTENT	25X1				
DATE OBTAINED	PREPARED 6 March 1953				
REFERENCES					
PAGES 2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)				
REMARKS					

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. On 3 February 1953, the Reuss Kaserne on Franz Petri Strasse, Leo Tolstoi Strasse, Gerhart Hauptmann Strasse, Gera, was occupied by about 3,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, tank insignia and motor transport insignia. About 16 soldiers were seen receiving instruction and performing loading and aiming practices on two 152-mm howitzers in the barracks area on 24 January and about 150 soldiers were seen at drill in the barracks yard. At 4 p.m. on 3 February, a track laying vehicle towing a 100-mm AT gun and 12 soldiers were seen at the installation while about 85 soldiers threw hand grenades at the town exit of Gera and near the road to Biblach.

25X1

2. On 3 February, the barracks installation in Tinz north of Gera was occupied by about 800 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and tank insignia. About 50 soldiers were seen marching to the firing range west of the autobahn on the same day.

25X1

25X1

3. On 24 January 1953, the Reuss Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 1,500 soldiers. The installation was guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets. All barracks buildings were lighted at dusk. On 19 January, eight track-laying vehicles each towing a 100-mm AT gun and soldiers engaged in training were seen in the yard of the installation. At about 4 p.m. on 23 January, 60 soldiers armed with rifles and sub-machine guns marched to the installation. About 100 soldiers were seen drilling in the yard on a number of days.

25X1

4. On 24 January, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz was occupied by about 200 to 300 soldiers and was guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets. About 100 to 160 soldiers received training in the area outside the installation on 13 and 23 January.

5. Officers identified at the Reuss Kaserne from 17 December 1952 to 6 January 1953 included: Colonel Shefchenko (fnu), liaison officer with the division headquarters; Colonel Buehlwitz (fnu) who was chief of the administration; and Colonel Shalesnikov (fnu). (All names are spelt phonetically).

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

6. At 9 a.m. on 21 December 1952, 20 trucks each occupied by 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets left the Reuss Kaserne toward Dorna. A tank left the installation toward the town on 22 December. Two 150-mm howitzers towed by track-laying vehicles [redacted] drove toward the barracks installation on 29 December. Twelve guns were observed [redacted] in the area between Gera and Dorna near the autobahn on 2 January 1953. Prime mover [redacted] was seen nearby [redacted]

25X1

25X1

1. [redacted] Comment. The three officers mentioned were reported for the first time. Lieutenant Colonel Vasili Shevchenko who had been reported as chief of supply depot [redacted] of the Eighth Gds Army in Erfurt in July 1952 is probably not identical with the colonel mentioned in the present report. The designation liaison officer with the division headquarters is unclear. [redacted] probably [redacted] the headquarters of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps to which the 308th Arty Brig [redacted] at the Reuss Kaserne is assigned.

25X1

25X1

2. [redacted] Comment. The information indicates no changes in the occupation of the Reuss Kaserne which quartered the 308th Arty Brig [redacted]. Other reports indicated that minor units of the brigade were in Ohrdruf for practices in about mid-January 1953. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

[redacted] It seems still possible that a training unit may be quartered there.

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